

Telegram from Alexander Graham Bell to T.C. Martin, January 11, 1908, with transcript

Copy of a letter-press copy of a telegram from Alexander Graham Bell to T.C.Martin, in charge of the Memorial Meeting in honor of Lord Kelvin. States that: "It was Lord Kelvin (Sir William Thomson), who made the telephone known to the world." TELEGRAM . January 11, 1908. Mr. T.C.Martin, 239 West 39th Street, New York, N.Y.

I am very sorry that illness in my family prevents me from being present at the memorial meeting in honor of Lord Kelvin, for I should have liked to have said a few words of appreciation concerning Lord Kelvin's connection with the early history of the telephone, and his personal kindness to me when as a young and unknown man, I brought the telephone to his attention at the Centennial Exhibition in 1876.

It was really Lord Kelvin, who made the telephone known to the world. In spite of my efforts, the general public were skeptical concerning the reality of electrical utterance, but when Sir William Thomson spoke the world believed. Before he delivered his memorable address at the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1876, the telephone was looked upon as a scientific toy of no commercial value even by persons who had themselves heard the articulation of the instrument, but Sir William Thomson's address banished skepticism and the telephone entered upon its career of practical usefulness.

GRAHAM BELL. Paid. Charges to the account of A.Graham Bell.